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Urges Study of JFK X-Rays, Death Photos

[A NEW YORK TIMES SPECIAL]

NEW YORK—A proposal that X-rays and photographs of President Kennedy's body be examined by a committee of scholars and doctors was made public today as a way to back up the Warren commission's report that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed the President.

The proposal contained in the current issue of The Nation was made by Jacob Cohen, who was described as completing a book to defend the conclusion made by the Warren commission. Cohen, 32, a free lance writer, of Montclair, N. J., is teaching disadvantaged children in Boston this summer, and was formerly on the history faculties of Yale and Brandeis universities.

25 to 32 X-Rays

Cohen wrote that 25 to 32 X-rays and at least 15 to 20 photos had been taken of Kennedy's body after the assassination. He argued these could show whether a wound in the President's back had been high enough to sustain the theory of a single bullet wounding both the President and Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas. They could also, he contended, refute suggestions that the President might have been shot from the front or side—a theory requiring a second assassin.

It was unclear, he wrote, whether the Warren commission "ever requested and received the X-rays." He reported that several commission lawyers had told him the photos and possibly the X-rays had been withheld from publication at the request of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the President's brother.

Cites Possible Reasons

This might have been "for reasons of taste," Cohen wrote. Another "innocent explanation," he said, was "to avert low-minded speculation that Kennedy was a dying man when he was shot" because of possible indications of the President's known adrenal insufficiency.

Arlen Specter, who was a key commission lawyer and is now district attorney of Philadelphia, said he personally had not seen the photographs or X-rays, but "the commission decided it was not necessary to review them."

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